

International Indigenous Visitors

The NTRU was pleased to host two distinguished Indigenous visitors over the last few months.

In early December Assistant Grand Chief Lloyd Oronhiakhete Phillips of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake, Canada, visited AIATSIS. The Assistant Grand Chief took part in a workshop titled 'From Land Settlements to Self-Government: The Kahnawake Experience of Comprehensive Negotiations in Canada.' While he was in Canberra, the NTRU facilitated meetings between the Assistant Grand Chief and local Indigenous representatives.

Professor John Borrows has taken up the Institute's inaugural International Indigenous Visiting Fellowship. Professor Borrows, from the Cape Croker Indian Reserve, Canada, is the Law foundation Chair in Aboriginal Justice and Governance at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. While resident at the Institute, Professor Borrows will be researching the topic: 'Aboriginal Title and the Dangers of Legislative "Solutions"'

Indigenous Mediation and Facilitation Project

Team: Toni Bauman (Visiting Research Fellow), Rhian Williams (Consultant Fellow, Mediation Specialist), Sophia Close (Research Assistant)

Project Activities

The National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) is sponsoring the Project to hold five workshops in the first half of this year with representatives from Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRB) including, CEOs, board members, anthropologists, lawyers and field officers. The locations and content of the workshops will be discussed at an ATSIIS Leader's Forum for CEOs and Chairs of NTRBs planned for late March 2004. A workshop for native title mediation practitioners

will be held at a date to be decided hopefully in the second half of 2004, subject to funding.

Preparation of material for the proposed Project web pages to be hosted on the AIATSIS web site is progressing well. A comprehensive bibliography has been completed by Rebecca Morphy and Kitty Eggerking and will be soon available.

A survey has been prepared for mediation practitioners who work in native title. A list of practitioners is currently being prepared through a range of agencies. If you are interested in participating in this survey please contact us.

Forthcoming Events

The Wukindi Cross-cultural Mediation Training workshop will be held in the week of 21st June 2004 on Galiwinku (Elcho) Island. Check the web site on wukindi.com.

The National Mediation Conference will be held in Darwin, Northern Territory from 30 June to 2 July 2004 and will have a strong Indigenous component. It is anticipated that the Wukindi Rom 'reconciliation' ritual will be held each morning of the conference.

Papers, publications and presentations

Travel was sponsored by the Minerals Council of Australia for Toni Bauman and Rhian Williams to present a paper, "Towards a Common Practise Investigating Australian Indigenous Dispute Management Needs in Land Issues" at the Asia Pacific Mediation Forum, Singapore, 19-22 November 2003.

Toni Bauman facilitated a one day workshop in Darwin on 3rd November 2003 titled 'Introduction to Conflict management and decision-making' for Northern Territory Government Community Development Officers. This was followed by a short workshop for delegates at the Building Effective Indigenous Governance Conference at Jabiru, 4-7 November 2003.

Native Title Business Forum

The Native Title Research Unit took part in a Native Title Business Forum held at the National Museum on the 11 and 12 of December 2003. The forum was an informal session where each member gave a concise paper in relation to an aspect of native title relevant to their field of expertise.

Dr Lisa Strelein introduced all speakers before discussing the legal aspect of native title. Dr Stuart Bradfield spoke about agreement making with peoples and nations, and Toni Bauman discussed anthropology, native title and conflict. Jane Anderson discussed the importance of cultural narrative informing native title law, whilst Glen Kelly talked about Extinguishment of native title and the continuity of people. Donna Oxenham spoke about the effects of native title in relation to the Shark Bay community, including Indigenous identity and her own personal experience. Her talk was titled 'The concept of traditional v. contemporary perceptions of Aboriginal society and how this has created problems within the native title context for many Indigenous groups within Australia.' Grace Koch concluded the session by giving an overview of the services the access unit of the NTRU provide.

The Native Title Conference 2004 Adelaide, South Australia, 3-4 June 2004

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement- Native Title Unit invite you to join us in Adelaide for the *Native Title Conference 2004*.

This comprehensive national conference addresses the cutting edge of native title research and practice. It is an opportunity for networking and information sharing between the staff of representative bodies, academics, legal counsel and government. The conference is also a development opportunity for native title representative body staff, executive and practitioners and all who wish to remain informed of current practice, governance, and law and policy development.

The conference will be held at the Stamford Grand Hotel in Glenelg

The major theme of this year's conference is: **Building Relationships - It's the People that Matter - It's the People that make it work**. Sub themes include:

- making native title work for everyone
- finding equitable solutions
- the grounding for positive native title outcomes
- the way to move forward
- finding common ground: resolutions to native title issues

A new and refreshing program will be introduced this year, to respond to participant input from previous years.

Pre-conference workshops: NTRB only

(Wednesday June 2) will be dedicated to NTRB's only. This day will consist of workshops conducted by NTRB staff for NTRB staff and or executive. These workshops are knowledge based, and will cater for the various levels/skills/and areas of interest of and for practitioners. Key to the success of these workshops is opening a dialogue and sharing knowledge between NTRB staff and executive.

A Welcome to Country Ceremony will be held in the evening of 02 June 2004.

(Thursday 3rd June) which falls on Mabo Day, will be open to the general public. On this day, keynote lectures and papers will be presented by Native title holders and claimants, practitioners, NTRB staff, researchers, academics, political leaders and others.

Running concurrent with these sessions will be a Youth Forum. The Youth Forum at last year's conference in Alice Springs was seen as a huge success, and we are delighted to be holding this important forum again in Adelaide. The Youth Forum is open to 16-25 year old Indigenous people.

(Friday 4th June) the day will be composed of two parallel strands: the general program will continue with papers and workshops, and a distinct Indigenous stream of sessions and workshops will also be held. The Indigenous Forum is of course open only to Indigenous people.

Call for Papers/Workshops

The Native Title Research Unit of AIATSIS is calling for papers or workshop presentations for this year's Native Title Conference. An abstract of the paper or workshop, plus a one paragraph biography should be sent as an email attachment to siv.parker@aiatsis.gov.au. The number of available spots for papers/workshops is strictly limited. Papers will be chosen on merit, and applicability to overall themes and streams of the conference. Paper presenters are expected to register and pay for their attendance at the conference.

The abstract and biography must be in a standard word processing package such as Microsoft Word. Papers will only be accepted in electronic format.

Presenters must list all Audio Visual requirements for their workshop/paper. We will endeavour to satisfy your requirements as best we can.

Formatting

We would appreciate abstracts and biographies being presented to AIATSIS in the following format

1. Times New Roman
2. 12 point font
3. Justified left
4. 2.5cm left/right margin
5. 3cm top/bottom margin

NTRB pre-conference Workshops

The first day of the conference will be open to staff and executive of NTRB's only. This is a wonderful opportunity for NTRB staff to link up and discuss issues that directly concern the workings of NTRB's. We call on NTRB staff and executive to develop knowledge based

workshops for their peers. We will be accepting workshop abstracts under the same conditions as that stated above.

Workshop presentations

Abstracts for workshop presentations should:

- Describe the topic
- Clearly express the thesis, or question under discussion (if appropriate)
- Make clear the purpose of the workshop

The workshops themselves should:

- Attempt to engage participants as much as possible
- Encourage active participation in the workshop
- Be flexible and open to change as the workshop unfolds
- Be directed at sharing and/or exchanging of information between facilitator and participants

Staff Recruitment

Sophia Close has started with the NTRU as a Project Research Assistant for 12 months. Her main role will be to assist with the Indigenous mediation and facilitation project. Sophia has a research background in Indigenous political theory and governance, peace and conflict, and economics and is on temporary transfer from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources.

Siv Parker has recently joined the NTRU as the Native Title Conference Co-ordinator. Siv holds a Bachelor of Arts, Politics and Philosophy and has joined the team from 2CUZ fm radio, Bourke.

Wayne Deans is leaving the unit. Wayne was the Conference co-ordinator. We wish Wayne all the best with his future endeavours.